

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET  
REGISTRATION SERVICE  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE: 9/21/89

FULL NAME REV THOMAS L McLAUGHLIN S.S. NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS HAS MOVED FROM AREA -

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 58 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION ROMAN CATHOLIC NATIONALITY (Citizen of) USA

OCCUPATION ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

EDUCATION SEMINARY; DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

WEIGHT 6' 2" HEIGHT 250 RACE W

COLOR OF HAIR GRAY COLOR OF EYES \_\_\_\_\_

ANY DISTINGUISHING PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS BALDING

HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIED ☐ SINGLE ☒ NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, number, ages, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
S-0160	NEW ALBANY	OH	IH	6/88	7/89
Chartered Organization <u>RESURRECTION ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</u>					

SPECIAL RECOGNITION \_\_\_\_\_

INCIDENT: TYPE 2 DATE OF INCIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ RESOLUTION 2, 3  
Type Resolution

- |                                            |                                |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1=Scout Related                            | 1. Internal (only Scouts Know) |
| 2=Non-scout related                        | 2. Criminal action             |
| 3=homosexual (not specifically with youth) | 3. Court action                |
|                                            | 4. Probationary status         |
|                                            | 5. Reported to state agency    |

Check off list of attached documentation

1. Description of incident **NOTED**
2. Victim(s) statement
3. media reports **SEP 27 1989**
4. Legal proceedings
5. Offender's statement **JOSEPH L. ANGLIM**
6. Official notification of termination
7. Found guilty/innocent by court

SENT IN PREVIOUSLY

Council \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

3828r-eko-11/3/88

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 31 1989

F. STARON

CONF010639

READY FOR FILE

SEP 28 1989

JULIE EATON

September 29, 1989

Mr. Rendle L. Metzger  
Scout Executive  
Central Ohio Council, No. 441

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: REV. THOMAS L. MC LAUGHLIN

Dear Ren:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

jf

cc: East Central Region

CONF010640

READY FOR FILE

AUG 16 1989

A. GRAVES

August 16, 1989

Mr. Rendle L. Metzger  
Scout Executive  
Central Ohio Council, No. 441

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: REV. THOMAS L. MC LAUGHLIN

Dear Ren:

Thanks so much for the information you recently sent concerning the above named individual. I agree that he should be placed on the confidential file, so that he cannot be involved with the Boy Scouts of America in the future.

I would like a Confidential Record Sheet, if you can complete it with as much information as you have available. This would certainly aid in the identification process anywhere he might move in the country.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

je

Enclosure

cc: East Central Region

*Added to CF file  
no neg to delete  
8/16/89  
cmw*

CONF010641



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Central Ohio Council 441

July 27, 1989

Paul Ernst  
Registration Services  
National Council  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Paul:

The accompanying articles on Rev. Thomas L. McLaughlin are self explanatory. Rev. McLaughlin was formally removed in February of 1989.

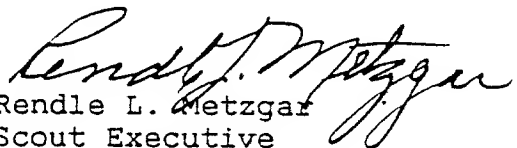
The Church Of The Resurrection has sponsored Scout Troop S-150 in which he was listed as the Institutional Head since June of 1988.

The Rev. Jerome P. Rodenfels has replaced Rev. McLaughlin as pastor of the church and now is the Institutional Head. We have made the appropriate changes. Although this is not a registered position, per say, with the BSA and to the best of our knowledge never involved with any Scouts; we feel this individual should be listed on the confidential file.

If I can provide any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

CENTRAL OHIO COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

  
Rendle L. Metzgar  
Scout Executive

RLM/rh

cc: Larry Garrison

1901 East Dublin-Granville Road  
Post Office Box 29207  
Columbus, Ohio 43229



A United Way Agency

Field Office:  
2112 Cherry Valley Road  
Newark, Ohio 43055-1395

CONF010642

# Columbus area priest guilty of

By Debera Bell  
and Debra Mason  
Dispatch Staff Reporters

A Columbus Diocese Roman Catholic priest was convicted yesterday in Logan County Common Pleas Court in Bellefontaine, Ohio, of attempted gross sexual imposition of a 12-year-old boy in 1985.

In a plea bargain, the Rev. Thomas L. McLaughlin, 58, pleaded guilty on condition he would not be charged with crimes involving boys from other counties, including Franklin.

Franklin County Juvenile detective Terry Shepard said the molestation of the 12-year-old occurred at the priest's cottage at Russells Point, near Indian Lake.

The boy was one of seven boys, six of whom were from Franklin County, that McLaughlin molested after befriending them and their families during church activities, Shepard said. Several visited the priest at his cottage, which is near recreation areas.

"All the victims do not want to testify against a person they hold so highly."

— Terry Shepard

One of the seven boys became a priest and is now working in the Columbus Diocese outside Franklin County, Shepard said.

Logan County Judge Ronald E. Hadley is expected to sentence McLaughlin next month. The priest could receive up to two years in prison.

Currently, McLaughlin is at St. Luke's Institutional Center in Suitland, Md., where he has been undergoing treatment since December. He went to Maryland after being removed as pastor of the 500-member Church of the Resurrection in New Albany, which he helped found in 1983.

The investigation was begun in

January by the Franklin and Logan county sheriff's departments.

Shepard said the investigation was hampered because some victims were unwilling to talk and Columbus Diocese Bishop James A. Griffin refused to give detectives a statement about his conversations with McLaughlin. Shepard said the diocese would not allow investigators to talk to McLaughlin.

Griffin is on vacation and could not be reached for comment last night.

Shepard said, "It was really hard for most of these young men to really talk about it. All the victims do not want to testify against a person they hold so highly."

Shepard said searches of McLaughlin's rectory, home at 7331 Central College Rd., at the church office and at his cottage revealed evidence, including:

- 18 packages of boy's underwear.

## sex crime with boy

- Pornographic birthday cards that had been sent to him.

- Two books: *The Sex Book* and *The Boy: A Pictorial Essay*.

The fondling incidents went back at least 14 years, Shepard said. All the victims were between the ages of 11 and 15 when the events occurred, Logan County Assistant Prosecutor Michael Brady said.

McLaughlin met some of the victims while pastor at St. Mary Church in Marion between 1974 and 1983. Since his ordination in 1956, he has served several parishes, including three in Columbus.

Griffin confronted McLaughlin with the allegations last year, diocesan officials said. After that conversation, McLaughlin was admitted to St. Luke's on Dec. 12. A statement to parishioners said his departure was for health reasons.

Diocesan attorney Paul D. Ritter Jr. said he met with Franklin County Children Services about the incidents Dec. 30. He said the church followed procedures for

dealing with molestations by priests developed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

State law requires clergy members to tell officials of cases where children might be in danger, or abused. Ritter said notification was not necessary until McLaughlin was replaced in the parish.

The Rev. Thomas Holahan, diocesan vicar for communications, said McLaughlin was removed from active duty in the 23-county Columbus Diocese on Feb. 13. Once treatment is complete and he serves any sentence he might receive, he could try to find a job in another diocese.

Any diocese to which he applies would receive a record of his conviction, Holahan said.

Barry Mentser, attorney with Franklin County Children Services, said, "We specifically asked them if they would assure us the man would never be placed in a position of authority in charge of children. They would not guarantee it."



File photo.

Rev. Thomas L. McLaughlin

# McLaughlin confesses sins in frank letter to friend

By Debra Mason  
Dispatch Religion Reporter

*When I was with them I was a teen-ager just like they were. Of course, as I look back, this was all a fool's paradise. I was a 45- to 58-year-old man who by his size and weight and age and position could mesmerize teens into thinking or doing what he wanted. But until the intervention, it had never occurred to me that I would ever do anything to hurt or harm a kid. I hugged them and kissed them and loved them as my own.*

In this recent letter to a friend, the Rev. Thomas McLaughlin confesses the intimacies he had with teen-age boys that led to his conviction this week on a charge of attempted gross sexual imposition.

McLaughlin, who for five years was pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany, wrote about how he would snuggle in bed with the boys, touch them and tell them he loved them. "It is obvious that I had few boundaries," he wrote.

He also tells how he realized, during his treatment at a Suitland, Md., hospital specializing in addictions and sexual disorders, that he was "a tangled mass of confusion and delusion and naivety."

He said he thought at times of suicide. "Resurrection (Church) is over for me. I will never forget the Camelot that we had going. I've just let down so many people. Would that I could roll back the clock. Not possible," he wrote.

McLaughlin, who will be sentenced in August in the Bellefontaine, Ohio, courtroom where he pleaded guilty Monday, sought treatment at St. Luke's Institute last December when confronted with allegations that he fondled boys. He has been released by the court on his own recognizance.

The incident which led to McLaughlin's conviction occurred in a cabin at Russells Point, Ohio, on Indian Lake. The cabin was vacant yesterday, and McLaughlin's whereabouts are unknown.

McLaughlin wrote his friend that, although he was one of 22 priests or brothers at St. Luke's being treated for sexually abusing teens, he was the only one turned in by his bishop for criminal prosecution.

In the letter, McLaughlin also tells about one victim's family. The family spent Easter with him this year and, at least until recently, was still calling him each Sunday.

"So, I am grateful for their forgiveness and love," he wrote.

Meanwhile, at the 500-family Church of the Resurrection at 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., about 100 children yesterday sang songs and learned lessons about Jesus' love during a weeklong Bible school.

Although about a half-dozen people have stopped in to talk about McLaughlin, the Rev. Jerry Rodenfels said, the church is trying to move ahead. When Rodenfels replaced McLaughlin in December, parishioners thought McLaughlin was leaving because of depression.

Rodenfels said he was not told the real reason McLaughlin was removed until after his arrival.

"People are shocked and surprised about all this and obviously hurt," said Rodenfels. "The challenge is to go forward in the future with support, care and compassion for each other."

The church, bordered by a cornfield in this fast-developing area, is known for its friendly, open congregation, Rodenfels said.

It was a friendliness which had been fostered by the gregarious and warm personality of McLaughlin, some parishioners said.

"He's responsible for our parish growing so fast," said Carolyn Kreinbrink, of Gahanna. She and her family transferred from St. Matthew Church in Gahanna to the New Albany parish because of "Father Mac," as McLaughlin was called.

"I think this shows there can be two sides to someone," Kreinbrink said. "I don't condone what he did."

"At the same time, I look at him and think the church is about forgiveness."



The Rev. Jerry Rodenfels at church

Dispatch photo by Mike Munder